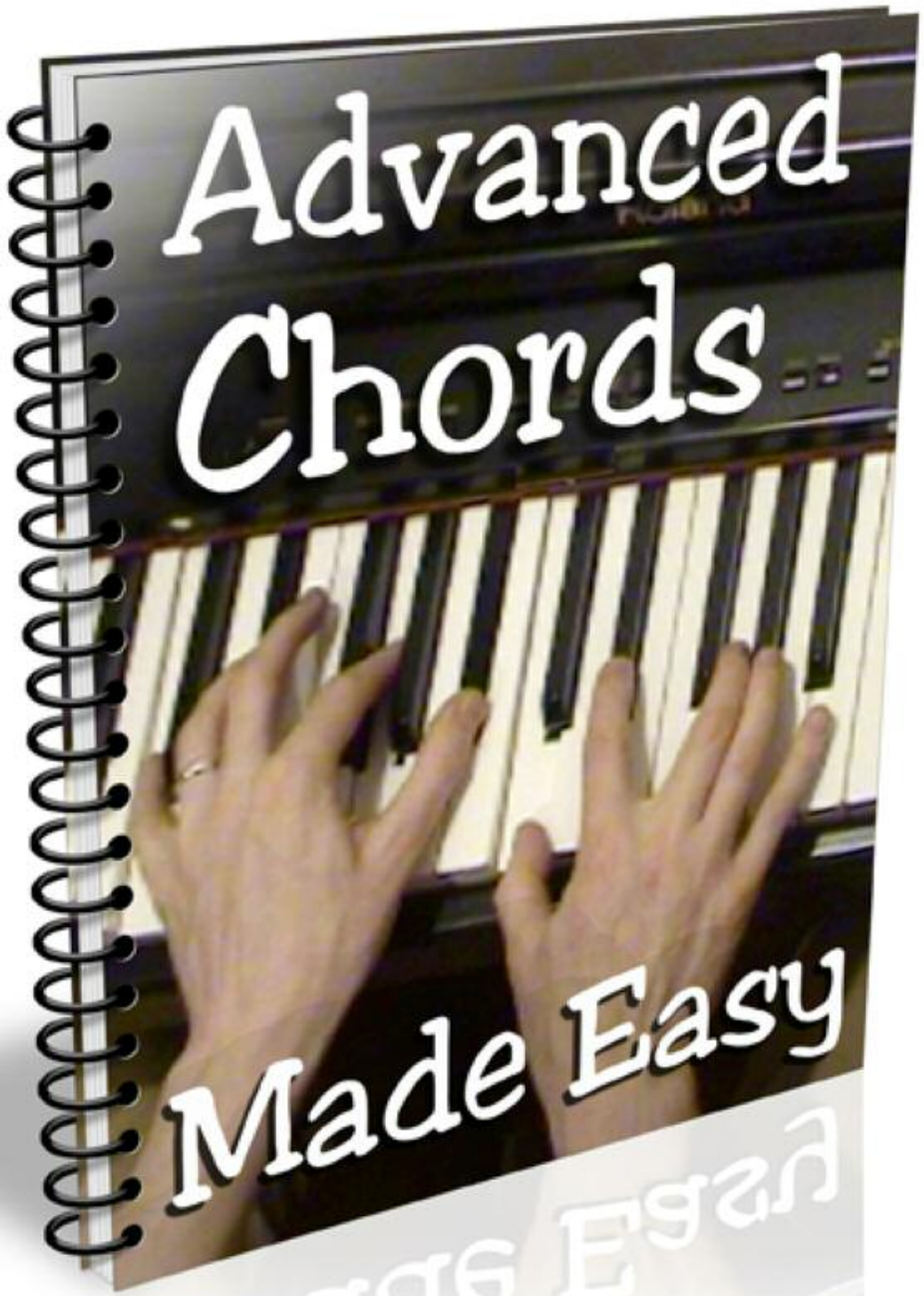

Advanced
Chords
Made Easy

BLUFF YOUR WAY
‘9’, ‘11’ and ‘sus4’
CHORDS

ONE MAGIC FORMULA

The more tunes you play, the more you will see chords with the numbers 9, 11 and sus4 after them.

It is important to learn how to play these chords because they all add ‘colour’ to your tunes.

I have devised ONE MAGIC FORMULA that let’s you bluff all three types of chord easily...

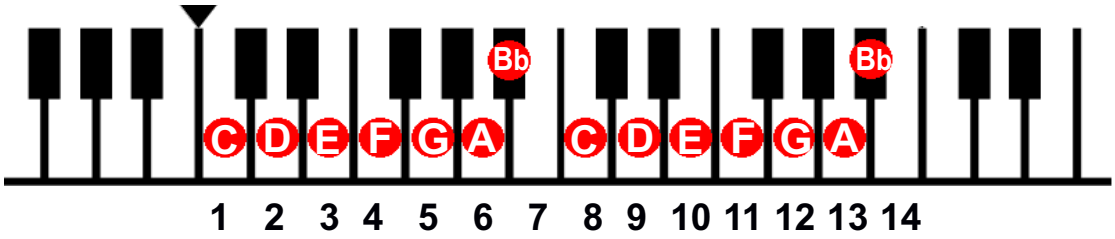
BLUFF YOUR WAY - ‘9’, ‘11’ and ‘sus4’ CHORDS

part 1 - Where the numbers come from

Chords are based on SCALES

Chord NOTE NUMBERS are derived from these scales

For instance, this is a C7 scale - (2 Octaves)



The chord of C **uses 1 3 5** **=** **C E G**

The chord of Csus4 **uses 1 3 4 5** **=** **C E F G**

The chord of C+ **uses 1 3 5#** **=** **C E G#**

The chord of C6 **uses 1 3 5 6** **=** **C E G A**

The chord of C7 **uses 1 3 5 7** **=** **C E G Bb**

The chord of C9 **uses 1 3 5 7 9** **=** **C E G Bb D**

The chord of C11 **uses 1 3 5 7 9 11** **=** **C E G Bb D F**

BLUFF YOUR WAY - ‘9’, ‘11’ and ‘sus4’ CHORDS

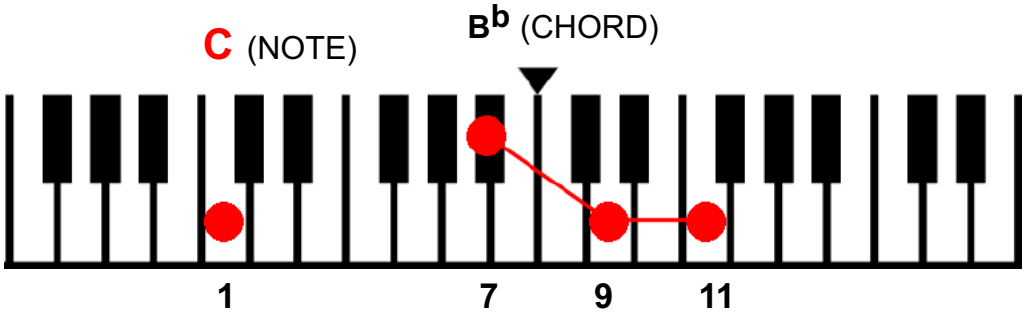
part 2 ONE MAGIC FORMULA

Notice that the ADDED notes for C9 are **B^b - D**
the ADDED notes for C11 are **B^b - D - F**
and the ADDED notes for Csus4 is **F**

Now notice that **B^b - D - F** is the chord of **Bb major**

So if you play the chord of B^b major with your right hand and play a left hand bass (ROOT) note of C you will roughly hear the ‘sound’ of the C9, Csus4 and C11 chords

C9
C11
Csus4



From this example we can easily work out a FORMULA to enable you to EASILY BLUFF any ‘9’ , ‘11’ or sus4 chord...

Notice that the RIGHT hand Bb chord is 2 notes LEFT of C

So the MAGIC FORMULA is...

TO BLUFF **X9** or **X11** or **Xsus4**

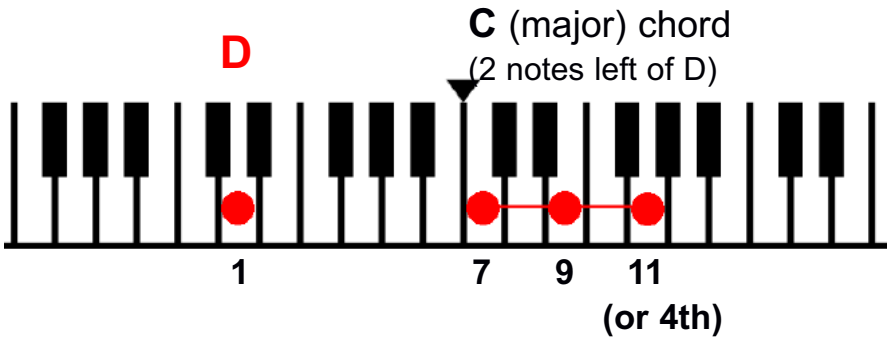
LEFT HAND - plays the ROOT note of **X** in the bass

RIGHT HAND - plays a MAJOR chord whose ROOT note is 2 notes LEFT of **X**

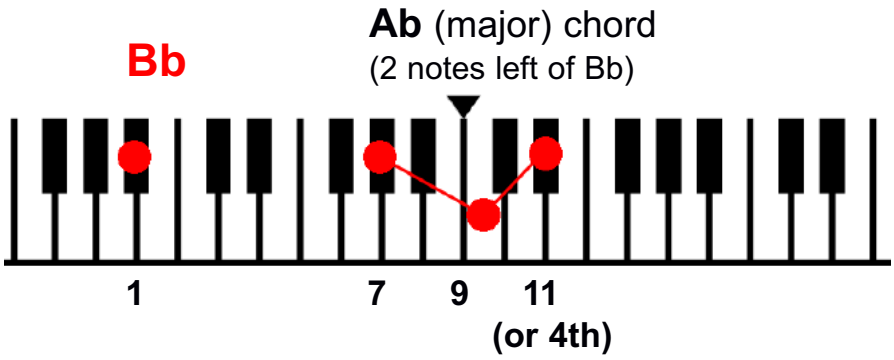
REMEMBER TO COUNT BLACK KEYS

EXAMPLES OF BLUFFED 9, 11 and sus4 chords

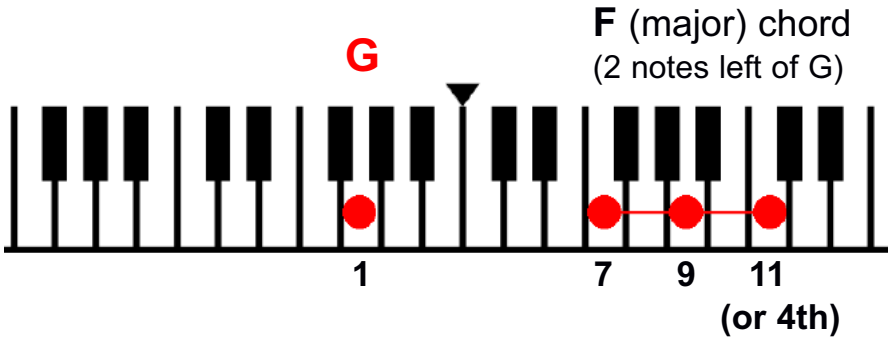
D9, D11 or Dsus4



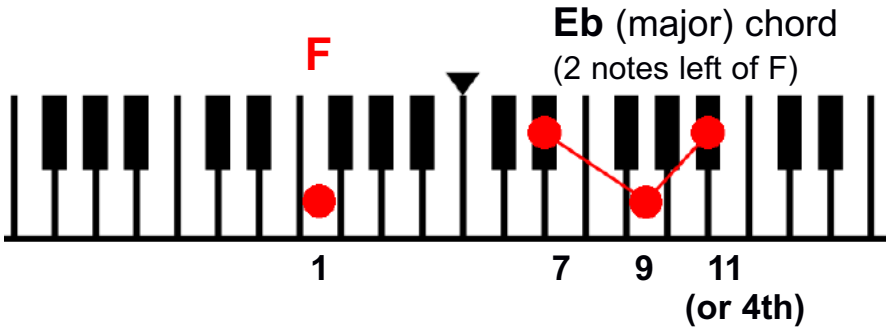
B♭9, B♭11 or B♭sus4



G9, G11 or Gsus4



F9, F11 or Fsus4



BLUFF 9, 11, sus4 PRACTICE PROGRESSIONS

Rhythm - Bossa Nova Bounce (HUNGRY HEART - Bruce Springstein)

G (bkwds)	Em (middle)	Am7	Dsus	Keep repeating

Rhythm- Half Beat Bounce (MANDY - Barry Mannilow)

C	Cmaj7	C	Cmaj7	Dm	Dm7
Bbmaj7	G11(Mid)	G			

Rhythm - Half Beat Bounce (ROCKET MAN - Elton John)

Gm Mid Gm7	Csus C7	Repeat	

Rhythm - Half Beat Bounce (HAVE I TOLD YOU LATELY - Van Morrison)

F Am7	Bmaj7 C	F Am7	Bb C	Bbmaj7	Am7
Gm Gm/C	F Csus				

Rhythm - Half beat bounce (WOMAN - John Lennon)

C	Dm	C	Dm	C	Am	Dm	Gsus,G	F	Dm	Em	Gsus,G
					Bkds		Mid		Mid		Mid

Rhythm - Bossa Nova Bounce (MY CHERIE AMOUR - Stevie Wonder)

Cmaj7	C11	Fmaj7 (Mid)	D11

*The above progressions are for improvisational purposes only.
You can purchase sheetmusic at www.sheetmusicdirect.com